

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
**FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**Friday, 5 April 2024**  
**8:30 am**

In Attendance: E. Berlin, S. Brewer, D. Hoagland, N. Katz, A. Messier, J. Olsen,  
A. Paik, M. Trim, R-E. Verock

Guest: Tilman Wolf

1. Minutes

Alison Messier is responsible for the minutes of this meeting. If she is unable to attend, Michelle Trim is responsible.

Approve minutes of the 8 March 2024 meeting submitted by Neil Katz.

The approval of minutes was tabled.

2. Guest: Senior Vice Provost Tilman Wolf on Flex 2.0

- Separating modes of instruction into in-person and online (asynchronous) creates flexibility in the curriculum so that students can have more opportunities to complete other aspects of their experiential learning.
- Flex 2.0 changes apply only to Fall & Spring semesters. Winter/Summer semesters are unchanged.
- Online courses will have 2 subsections, with a **U+ session** for online students and a **University session** for on-campus students. Seat count limits determined by department.
- The model doesn't preclude anything we are able to do today, it opens up more options and opportunities for students to enroll in in-demand courses. If it happens that this increases demand, departments can follow the proper channels to request increased support/funding. We need to see that these are our courses that happen to be in online format that are integral to our departments.
- Discussion of remuneration, operating funds, equity of access.

- The goal is to be able to limit all types of seats, holding a number of seats for the U+ students. The Administration is hopeful to start experimenting with this new course structure lightly in Spring 2025. To support instructors, the Course Design Institute is going to be launched through IDEAS, which focuses on how to create high-quality asynchronous courses.
- Discussion of quality of education and experience for students. The goal of Flex 2.0 is for departments to be strategic about course offerings online that makes the most sense for their program and their students.

### 3. Agenda items for the 2 May 2024 Faculty Senate meeting

#### a. Presentations: Flex 2.0 and Segal

Paik proposes that presentations at the May meeting include Flex 2.0 and Segal. All agree it is important to tell folks what's happening with both.

#### b. Reports: Athletics Council and AI taskforce

These will most likely be brief.

#### c. Elections:

Committee discussed nominations for upcoming elections for the positions of Presiding Officer and the Delegate to the Board of Trustees.

#### d. Proposed merger of School of Public Policy (SPP) and Data Analytics and Computational Social Science (DACSS)

(<https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/show/21629>)

Provost has not signed off on this yet, but as soon as he does it will then go to APBC. This proposal will most likely show up on the agenda for the May meeting once approved by APBC.

### 4. Discussion items

#### a. Organization and leadership of the interdisciplinary studies area (Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, BDIC, and CTL)

They don't currently have a Dean and want to have one. Faculty in these departments have raised concerns.

#### b. Reviewing the General education system: next steps

Tabled until next meeting

- c. Breaking ties in Senate elections: we have a tie in one District and no tie-breaking procedure.

Paik suggests that we develop a procedure for this, having the Presiding Officer break the tie. Brought to a vote in the committee. Vote: 6 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention.

**All agenda items below were not covered in this meeting and are tabled until our next meeting.**

- d. CIP Procedures
  - e. Ombuds search
  - f. Canvas functionality
  - g. Academic calendar
  - h. Disability services
  - i. Reviewing add/drop deadlines
  - j. Strategic planning
  - k. Budgeting in an elevated inflation environment
5. Updates on additional issues (proposed name change of Resource Econ; Commonwealth Honors College thesis seminars; Ombuds search; equity action plans; childcare center; childcare support/reimbursement)